

Spouse receives Joan Orr award

By SrA. Sarah Franco
Public affairs

The Air Force Association chose an RAF Lakenheath spouse to receive the 1997 Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award.

Rachel Stahl, wife of SSgt. Doug Stahl, 48th Component Repair Squadron, was selected for the award in part for her community involvement and leadership by example.

Last year, Stahl was the enlisted spouses club president, community scholarship association vice president and general volunteer.

"I volunteered about 40 hours a week," she said. "Being involved with the ESC made me involved with everything they do."

All the volunteering and work she did helped others in numerous ways. In total, she helped raise more than \$66,000 for charity. She was instrumental in both the enlisted spouses club and officers wives club bazaars. She has been a key member of the committee which plans and conducts the quarterly dormitory residents dinners, and she helped select and distribute money provided by the



Photo by TSgt. Sam Shore

Rachel Stahl separates items at the base thrift shop.

Air Force Aid Society for the spouse tuition assistance committee.

"Volunteering is a way to be part of the community," Stahl said. "Whatever I'm doing, I give 100 percent. I get the personal satisfaction of knowing I've done my best."

"Stahl's many contributions to the RAF Lakenheath community truly epitomize the selfless dedication of the Air Force spouse," said AFA officials. "She embodies the principle of 'service before self.'"

USAFE band visits Bury

The Band of the United States Air Forces in Europe "Symphonic Winds Concert Band" is in concert from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral

The program includes popular music by British and American composers and Glenn Miller-style music. Cost is £5 at the door and all proceeds go to the Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral.

Tickets are also available in advance; write to The Cathedral Office, Abbey House, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 ILS, or call (01284) 754933. The band is presented by the USAFE commander, Gen. Michael E. Ryan.

AFPC page has assignment info

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFNS)—To provide enlisted members with more information on assignments, the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted assignments division has gone on line with a web site.

Titled "Enlisted Information and Updates," the site provides a wide spectrum of information on most enlisted assignment programs within the Air Force. It's available 24 hours a day and can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

Some of the information available on the page includes how to use the Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing and EQUAL Plus; the Continental United States assignment swap program; the date eligible to return from overseas forecast system; join spouse program and first sergeant duty, to name just a few.

"We have over 20 different links to information which deal with these different programs," said SSgt. Tom Sawyer, NCO in charge of the AFPC issues and procedures section. "We also created a 'frequently asked questions' site."

The site address is <http://www.afpc.af.mil/asnment/htdocs/enlweb.htm>.

"After using the page, we encourage everyone to direct questions to their local military personnel flight or commander's support staff," Sawyer said. "But we do have an e-mail address on the page if people want to contact us directly. Since this is an official channel, we ask people provide their name, rank and Social Security number when they contact AFPC." (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Construction approved for housing improvements

By SSgt. Scott Davis
Public affairs

The quality of government housing will improve as more than \$11 million in construction and maintenance projects has been approved, according to RAF Lakenheath housing management officials.

About 543 houses in 13 housing areas will be upgraded during the next year and a half, according to John Busca, deputy chief of housing management.

The whole-house renovations will affect families in Shepherd's Grove family housing and Lakenheath's Canterbury Close. In the future, RAF Mildenhall housing will have some whole-house renovations.

Eight families will be relocated from each of these areas. After construction is com-

pleted on the first eight houses, other residents in those housing areas will move into the renovated houses, and the newly vacated houses will be renovated. This will continue until the projects are completed, estimated to be December 1998.

Hartford, St. Ives closing

The contract for the Hartford and St. Ives government-leased housing areas expires Dec. 31 and will not be renewed, housing officials said. Families who are required to move will have the option of moving into one of RAF Lakenheath's family housing areas or pursuing economy housing.

"We're limited in what we can offer people," Busca said. "But, we'll work with what's available."

About 40 families living in Hartford and St. Ives will be moved according to their

DEROS, Busca said. Members with a DEROS in January or February 1998 have the option to be moved into temporary living facilities in December and receive temporary living allowances. Families required to move may accept a house with one bedroom less than they are entitled to increase their chances of moving into a specific housing area.

The government will pay for all of the housing moves, Busca said. Also, some of the other moving costs will be reimbursed, and families opting to move into economy housing will receive the moving-in housing allowance of nearly \$400.

Residents of these housing areas should visit the housing office to make sure their records show their current DEROS and bedroom entitlements. The housing office will send a letter with more information to the residents affected.